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Page Denied

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Denied

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STATEMENT

The end of World War II marked the beginning of an information explosion in open foreign-language sources (newspapers, periodicals, books) of interest to U.S. Government departments and agencies. Foreign publications multiplied so rapidly that it was soon obvious that no single agency could handle the volume and variety of material with its normal staff personnel. Therefore, in 1957 the U.S. Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS) was established with a small staff supported by free-lance contract translators, to process previously untapped foreign information sources.

All JPRS translations were from open-source material and it functioned as a translation service for the entire U.S. Government, accepting translation requests from other Government departments and agencies. It received its funding from the Central Intelligence Agency as a service of common concern to the whole Government.

Informal ties were established by JPRS at an early date with the Department of Commerce, prompted by the latter's interest and capability in disseminating scientific and technical translations to the public, and eventually JPRS came to be listed as a component of the Department of Commerce. Over the years the JPRS translation program has been broadened to cover a wide spectrum of languages and subject

- 2 -

matter. JPRS now publishes some 66 regular unclassified reports covering political, economic, scientific and sociological developments around the world and has a worldwide subscribership.

A recent review of the status of JPRS has determined that the listing of JPRS as a Department of Commerce component should cease. While JPRS will no longer be listed as a component of the Department of Commerce, the latter will continue, in the interests of efficiency, to handle subscriptions and dissemination of JPRS reports.

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